(b) to (d) The views expressed by both Indian and Pakistan sides on the project in terms of the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty have been recorded. At the end of the meeting, a Joint Press Statement was issued conveying that the two sides agreed to continue the discussion at the next round of the Dialogue Process with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provision of the Treaty.

Water crisis

938. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some States in the country are facing increasing water scarcity year after year;

(b) what long-term plan Government have to assist such States to tide over the water crisis; and

(c) whether Government propose to devise short-term schemes to help the water scarce State for instant relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that owing to growing population, the per capita water availability is reducing year after year.

The Government of India provides assistance to State Governments through various programmes in development of water resources, improving water use efficiency through proper water management, artificial recharge of ground water, restoring the traditional water bodies etc. Depending on emergent situations assistance is also provided through short-term schemes particularly in respect of providing drinking water supply.

Water crisis in Rajasthan

939. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan seems to set for a spell of water crisis and consequently the riots; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) that regulates Sutlej and Ravi-Beas waters, the position of water availability in BBMB's reservoirs, due to the normal monsoon this year so far, is very combfortable and has enable BBMB to meet the full water requirements of the Partner States including Rajasthan. Further, BBMB has delivered an average of 13,488 cusecs to Rajasthan from 1st to 28th July, 2005 against Rajasthan's share of 13,025 cusecs and BBMB has even requested the Partner States to maximize their drawals notwithstanding their respective share so as to avoid the wastage of water downstream of Madhopur and Ferozepur Headworks.

Water availability in important reservoirs monitored Central Water Commission has also indicated that the aggregate current year's storage as on 22.7.05 in Mahi Bajaj Sagar, Jhakam and Rana Pratap Sagar reservoirs in Rajasthan in about 1.45 thousand million cubic metres, which is 240% of the last year's storage and 197% of the last 10 year's average storage during the corresponding period.

(b) Handing over of successful exploratory wells by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to the Rajasthan State Government and technical assistace from CGWB to the State for promotion of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water etc. are some of the on-going steps and will be of help in a crisis situation.

MoU for use of Yamuna river water

†940. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi signed an MoU on 12th May, 1994 for the use of Yamuna river water;

(b) whether 1.119 BCM Yamuna river water allotted to Rajasthan was to be provided *vide* Okhla Barrage and Tajewala headworks;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to intervene and to instruct Haryana for signing as MoU for modernisation of canal system from Tajewala headworks to Loharu sub-branch and Gurgaon feeder in Haryana area;

(d) if so, by when; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.